

Response

Claims 1-26 were pending prior to entry of the preceding amendments, and *claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, 14-19, and 21-28* are pending now. The Examiner initially rejected claims 1-3, 5-9, 19, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,550,362 to Sherman and claims 10-12 and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Sherman patent considered together with U.S. Patent No. 7,014,336 to Ducharme, *et al.* The Examiner additionally objected to claims 10-11 and 25 because of certain identified informalities, allowed claims 24-26, and indicated claims 4, 13, and 20 would be allowable if suitably rewritten.

Applicant does not concede the correctness of any rejection or objection of the Examiner. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of a patent, Applicant has revised claims 10-11 and 25 to resolve the informalities identified by the Examiner. Applicant also has incorporated into (1) independent claim 1 the subject matter of allowable claim 4, (2) independent claim 10 the subject matter of allowable claim 13, and (3) independent claim 19 the subject matter of allowable claim 20. Applicant accordingly believes all pending claims are allowable and requests that they be allowed.

Petition for Extension of Time

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicant petitions the Commissioner for all extensions of time needed to respond to the Office Action.

Fees

Provided herewith is authorization to charge a credit card for \$490.00 for the petition for extension of time. Applicant believes no other fee presently is due. However, if Applicant's belief is mistaken, the Commissioner is authorized to debit Deposit Account No. 11-0855 for any additional fee due as a consequence of Applicant's submission of this paper.

Conclusion

Applicant requests that the Examiner allow claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, 14-19, 21-23, and 27-28 and that a patent containing these claims and allowed claims 24-26 issue in due course.

Respectfully submitted,



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